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James Clyman

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H.R. Rep. No. 468, 24th Cong., 1st Sess. (1836)

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JAMES CLYMAN.

MARCH 24, 1836.

Read, and laid upon the table.

Mr. E. WHITTLESEY, from the Committee of Claims, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee of Claims, to which was referred a petition of the inhabitants of Milwaukee, praying for a donation of land to James Clyman, report :

That the petition is not signed by James Clyman, nor by any person in his name or in his behalf: but by forty-nine persons, who represent themselves "inhabitants of Milwaukee." They petition Congress to pass a law granting to James Clyman one section of land for the losses and damages he has sustained in consequence of an attempt, (as they say,) made to murder him by two Menomonee Indians on Rock river, whilst on his way to Green Bay, to attend the land sales at that place. They say he was wounded in his arm, which he will not probably recover the use of again; and that he also lost, at that time, three hundred and fifty dollars which he has not recovered. He is represented as being one of the most honorable and worthy of the citizens of that place; that he has lost his health, time and money, and the opportunity of investing his money to advantage; and the petitioners think one section of land would not more than remunerate him for his losses.

How the petitioners came to a knowledge that the said James Clyman was wounded by the Indians does not appear. If, however, all the allegations were proven, the committee do not think they would lay the foundation for relief. He was neither in the military or naval service of the United States, but was a citizen said to have been in pursuit of his own private business, and was wounded and robbed. The petitioners must have supposed the powers of the General Government over the public domain and over the treasury, was without limitation or restriction, and that it was only necessary to ask, and grants would be made. Relief might as well be granted in any other case of robbery attended with wounds, as in this case, whether the constitutionality or expediency of the measure was considered. The following resolution is submitted :

Resolved, That James Clyman is not entitled to relief.